Eon	Era	Period	Epoch N	I a		Life Forms	N. American Tectonics
(Phaneros = "evident"; zoic = "life"	Cenozoic	Quaternary	Recent, or Holocene Pleistocene)1 sem	ımaıs	Modern man Extinction of large mammals and birds	Cascade volcanoes Worldwide glaciation
		Tertiary	Pliocene Miocene Oligocene Eocene Paleocene 5.2 33 Foreign 4.3 55	.0 9 9	Age of Man	Large carnivores Whales and apes Early primates	Uplift of Sierra Nevada Linking of N. & S. America Basin-and-Range Extension Laramide orogeny ends (West)
	Mesozoic	Cretaceous Jurassic	145	£	or Dinosaurs	Mass extinctions Placental mammals Early flowering plants First mammals Flying reptiles	Laramide orogeny (West) Sevier orogeny (West) Nevadan orogeny (West) Elko orogeny (West)
		Triassic		Age	Age	First dinosaurs	Breakup of Pangea begins Sonoma orogeny (West)
Phanerozoic	Paleozoic	Permian		hibians	omorans	Mass extinctions Coal-forming forests diminish	Super continent Pangea intact Ouachita orogeny (South) Alleghenian (Appalachian) orogeny (East)
		-	299 Pennsylvanian 318.1		Age of Amphiblans	Coal-forming swamps Sharks abundant Variety of insects First amphibians First reptiles Mass extinctions First forests (evergreens)	Ancestral Rocky Mts. (West)
		Mississippian 359.2			Ø.		Antler orogeny (West)
		Devonian			S		Acadian orogeny (East-NE)
		Silurian Ordovician	416	.7 E		First land plants Mass extinctions First primitive fish Trilobite maximum Rise of corals	
		Ordovician	488	vertebr	Marine Invertebrates		Taconic orogeny (NE)
		Cambrian	400	i i	e III		Avalonian orogeny (NE)
		542		Mari	Mari	Early shelled organisms	Extensive oceans cover most of N.America
Hadean Archean Proterozoic Beneath the Earth") ("Ancient") ("Early life")		342				1st multicelled organisms	Formation of early supercontinent
	2500		0		Jellyfish fossil (670Ma)	First iron deposits Abundant carbonate rocks	
		Precambrian	n ∼360	00		Early bacteria & algae	Oldest known Earth rocks (~3.93 billion years ago)
						Origin of life?	Oldest moon rocks (4-4.6 billion years ago)
("B		4	600 —		F	ormation of the Earth	Earth's crust being formed

Figure 11: Geologic time scale; adapted from the U.S. Geological Survey and International Commission on Stratigraphy. Red lines indicate major unconformities between eras. Included are major events in life history and tectonic events occurring on the North American continent. Absolute ages shown are in millions of years.